

Education Alive!

Aug 2014



Back to School

New classes, new challenges, new faces, new friends, and one step closer to their dreams!

After a long July/August break, students in St. Vincent and the Grenadines returned to school on September 1, to start the new academic year, 2014-2015.

The Ministry of Education extends best wishes to all the children across the country, as they begin this new school year. The Ministry remains committed to ensuring that it provides the best learning environments for the nation's children, despite the many challenges faced, and will continue to deliver the highest quality education.

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“As we move forward, I implore all stakeholders, all communities, to invest time and vigilance in ensuring that our schools remain free from vandalism and gang cultures; that the environment, furniture, textbooks and equipment are taken care of, that the school ethos reflects our nation's core values; that student achievement is celebrated, that the professionalism of principals and staff is exemplary and that each of us can share in the pride and joy of the kind of education our system represents.” – **Hon. Girlyn Miguel, Minister of Education** (Taken from her Back to School Message for the academic year 2014-2015)

2014 CXC Results Officially Released in SVG

The Caribbean Examinations Council's (CXC) annual release of results was officially done at a ceremony in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.



The ceremony focused on the 2014 May/June results for SVG, and a comparison of the nation's performance to that of the rest of the region. Dr. Charles Mayenga, Senior Assistant Registrar in the Examinations Development and Production Division of the CXC, presented the findings in the various CXC - administered exams.



*Dr. Charles Mayenga, Senior Assistant Registrar
(Examinations Development and Production Division, CXC)*

Dr. Mayenga highlighted the performance of the first cohort of students to write the CPEA in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. 78.08% of the students passed the assessment, placing the country's average above the regional average. For the CSEC exam, he noted that

SVG has recorded a 71% pass rate, surpassing the regional pass rate of 69%. Dr. Mayenga's presentation also indicated that, in several CAPE subject areas, SVG was at the top of the pile regionally. This year's overall pass rate for the CAPE in SVG is just about 88%, compared to the regional score of 90%.



Mrs. Susan Giles, Senior Assistant Registrar in the Examinations Administration and Security Division of the CXC, spoke about the issues relating to examinations administration and electronic marking / e-marking.

“Our investments in education must be creative and designed to deliver optimal results”

*Dr. Ralph E. Gonsalves, Prime Minister
of St. Vincent and the Grenadines*



Champion of the Education Revolution, Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, delivered the feature address. Dr. Gonsalves emphasized some of the achievements of the Education Revolution, one of the hallmarks of his administration. He spoke about the training of teachers and highlighted the following: “98% of teachers today are teacher-trained and certified, there are now more university graduates in the primary system than we had before 2001 and the student-teacher ratio is far more favorable today, than it was just over a decade ago”.



In speaking about investment in education, the Prime Minister (PM) pointed out his top 4 priority areas related to the achievement of optimal results:

1. Quality Teaching
2. Quality School Leadership
3. Students’ Efforts and Abilities
4. Parents’ Roles

The PM expressed the view that, while there is much to celebrate regarding the 2014 results for SVG, he is disappointed with the declining number of students taking History and Literature, especially at the CSEC level. He linked this to students missing opportunities to maximize their development of critical thinking skills. As he outlined the importance of critical thinking skills, Dr. Gonsalves emphatically stated: “Critical thinking must be an integral part of our educational system, not just as a subject for exams, but as a part of each subject”. Referring to this year’s CSEC results, as explained by the CXC, the PM continued: “In Maths and English we were good in understanding the concepts but not so good in

applying those concepts to real life and using those concepts in comparative circumstances. These require critical thinking...not as a subject, but an inbuilt ingredient in the pedagogics”.

Critical thinking is the ability to think clearly and rationally. It includes the ability to engage in reflective and independent thinking. Students with strong critical thinking skills are likely to easily identify the importance/relevance of ideas and understand the logical connections between them, they are likely to be better systematic problem solvers and to construct and evaluate strong arguments.



The symbolic handing over of the national results was also done at the ceremony. The CXC Registrar (Ag), Mr. Glenroy Cumberbatch, presented a digital copy of the results to Education Minister, Hon. Girlynn Miguel.

Principals of primary and secondary schools in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, along with CXC resource persons and education stakeholders attended the event.

The event was held on Monday 18th August at the Peace Memorial Hall in Kingstown. It was broadcast live on CMC CaribVision channels and streamed live on the Internet at www.cxc.org/cxctv, <http://new.livestream.com/vincyevents/CXC> and www.nbcsvg.com.

Last year’s release of results was hosted in St Kitts and Nevis.

CPEA

A total of 1948 students registered for the Caribbean Primary Exit Assessment (CPEA), 1934 of whom wrote the final examination.



CPEA final exam. Photo taken at the exam centre in Georgetown

The results indicate that 1510 students (78.08%) met the prescribed standard. Of the 912 females, 798 (87.50%) met the required standard, while 712 (69.67%) of the 1022 males met the required standard. Thirty-nine (39) of the seventy one (71) schools in St. Vincent and the Grenadines recorded pass rates in excess of 80%.

Laron Jones of Questelles Government School obtained the highest average score of 95.40%. In second place was Elleann Bailey of Windsor Primary School, with an average of 95.20% and there were 2 students in third place with averages of 93.60% – D'Angelo Dick and Aaron Isaac-Horne, both of Union Methodist Primary School.

The first 11 places were taken by the following schools:

Questelles Government School (2)

Union Methodist Primary School (2)

Sugar Mill Academy (2)

Barrouallie Government School (2)

Windsor Primary School (1)
Kingstown Preparatory School (1)

Calliaqua Anglican School (1)

In the external assessment, the highest subject scores

SUBJECT	PERCENTAGE (%)	STUDENT	SCHOOL
English	96	Odion Hamlet	Barrouallie Gov't School
		Tiyana Roberts	Calder Gov't School
Maths	100	Laron Jones	Questelles Gov't School
		Khalil Ashton	Lodge Village Gov't School
Science	100	Tyrese Lewis	Mustique Gov't School

can be summarized as follows:

Students' final scores were derived from the aggregate scores of both components of the CPEA – the school-based component (200 marks or 40% of the total score) and the external assessment (300 marks or 60% of the total score). Students writing the CPEA are required to acquire at least 50% of the possible 500 marks. St. Vincent and the Grenadines presented the first cohort of Grade 6 students for the CPEA in 2014.

The Ministry of Education continues its on-going training in the implementation of the CPEA for the 2015 cohort and beyond.



*Session for teachers facilitated by CPEA focal point in SVG
Clyde Fitzpatrick*

CSEC

This year, 3190 candidates were registered for the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate Examinations (CSEC). Of these, 1667 were private candidates and 1523 were registered by schools. This compares with 3076 candidates in 2013. Of which, 1409 were private candidates and 1667 were school candidates.

There were 10,676 subject entries in 32 subject areas, from 26 secondary schools. Approximately 71% of the subject entries were awarded Grades I to III, an improvement compared to previous years - 69% in 2013 and 67% in 2012. This year, 10.81% of the passes were at the Grade I level, 24.32% at Grade II and 36.03% at Grade III. Last year's figures were 10.32%, 23.02% and 35.98% respectively.

The following schools recorded pass rates of 80% or more:

1. St. Vincent Girls' High School (96.96%)
2. St. Joseph's Convent, Kingstown (93.68%)
3. St. Vincent Grammar School (93.03%)
4. Thomas Saunders Secondary (85.27%)



St. Martin's Secondary School recorded the most significant improvement, with its pass rate increasing from 54.95% in 2013 to 78.20% in 2014. This represents a 23.25% increase.

Other outstanding results include the following:

- 3 students who gained 14 subject passes
Delight Ollivierre - Mountain View Adventist Academy
Sherwin Peters - St. Vincent Grammar School
Richard John - St. Vincent Grammar School
- 1 student who obtained 13 subject passes
- 14 students who obtained 12 subject passes
- 27 students who gained 11 subject passes

The chart below shows 10 schools that obtained creditable pass rates between 60 and 80%

1	ST MARTIN'S SECONDARY SCHOOL	78.20%
2	ST JOSEPH'S CONVENT (MARRIAQUA)	78.16%
3	ADELPHI SECONDARY SCHOOL	75.88%
4	MOUNTAIN VIEW ADVENTIST ACADEMY	73.66%
5	UNION ISLAND SECONDARY SCHOOL	70.62%
6	WEST ST GEORGE SECONDARY SCHOOL	67.27%
7	INTERMEDIATE HIGH SCHOOL	65.93%
8	BARROUALLIE SECONDARY SCHOOL	64.56%
9	NORTH UNION SECONDARY SCHOOL	63.99%
10	BISHOP'S COLLEGE KINGSTOWN	63.14%

CAPE



4th amalgamated graduation ceremony of the SVGCC

SUBJECT	PROFICIENCY	Passes	Percent Pass
ACCOUNTING UNIT 1	UNIT 1	39	95.12%
ACCOUNTING UNIT 2	UNIT 2	26	65.00%
BIOLOGY	UNIT 1	55	96.49%
	UNIT 2	41	95.35%
CARIBBEAN STUDIES	UNIT 1	33	94.29%
CHEMISTRY	UNIT 1	53	94.64%
	UNIT 2	28	93.33%
COMMUNICATION STUDIES	UNIT 1	219	94.40%
COMPUTER SCIENCE	UNIT 1	61	96.83%
	UNIT 2	25	96.15%
ECONOMICS	UNIT 1	38	77.55%
	UNIT 2	28	80.00%
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE	UNIT 1	54	96.43%
	UNIT 2	47	97.92%
FRENCH	UNIT 1	8	100.00%
	UNIT 2	10	100.00%
GEOGRAPHY	UNIT 1	50	92.59%
	UNIT 2	41	97.62%
HISTORY	UNIT 1	20	58.82%
	UNIT 2	20	74.07%
LAW	UNIT 1	39	88.64%
	UNIT 2	36	78.26%
LITERATURES IN ENGLISH	UNIT 1	30	93.75%
	UNIT 2	17	94.44%
MANAGEMENT OF BUSINESS	UNIT 1	60	93.75%
	UNIT 2	49	98.00%
PHYSICS	UNIT 1	28	84.85%
	UNIT 2	39	90.70%
PURE MATHEMATICS	UNIT 1	39	46.99%
	UNIT 2	28	80.00%
SOCIOLOGY	UNIT 1	58	85.29%
	UNIT 2	39	84.78%
SPANISH	UNIT 1	11	84.62%
	UNIT 2	16	88.89%
Grand Total		1385	87.71%

In the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE), there was a candidate entry of 531; 471 of these from the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Community College (SVGCC) and 60 private candidates. The students of SVGCC sat exams in 19 different subject areas.

The table shows the % passes in each subject offering:

Passing grades (Grades 1 to V) were obtained in 1385 subject sittings representing an overall pass rate of 87.71%. This represents an increase over 2013 when the overall pass rate was 83.47%. This year's pass rate is also the highest since 2009, when the pass rate was 89%.

This year's results show that high pass rates have been maintained in most subjects taken. Other Advanced Proficiency Subjects were taken at the Cambridge International Examinations. These are reported on separately.



A refurbished building at the Glen campus

CCSLC

This year, 636 candidates registered for the Caribbean Certificate of Secondary Level Competence (CCSLC) examinations.



Senior Education Officer (Adult & Continuing Education) - Zan George conducting a session for adult learners

With the advent of the CXC/USAID/Ministry of Education Strengthening Second Chance Programme, there was an increase in the number of registrants at the Adult and Continuing Education centre for 2014.



Desrie Lewis-Richards of the Adult & Continuing Unit conducting a session on the use of the netbook

Additionally, a total of sixteen (16) inmates at Her Majesty's Prisons (Fort Charlotte and Belle Isle) received instruction and wrote the CCSLC English and Mathematics examinations in 2014. For more information on the CCSLC, please visit <http://www.cxc.org/?q=examinations/exams/ccslc>

CVQ

The Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ) has not yet been offered in St. Vincent and the Grenadines but work towards this is being done through the Adult and Continuing Education Unit of the Ministry of Education. For more information on the CVQ, please visit <http://www.cxc.org/examinations/exams/cvq>



Welding - one of the courses offered for the CVQ



Food and Beverage service - one of the courses offered for the CVQ

Football & Netball

COMING SOON!

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION 2014 SECONDARY SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Tuesday 23rd Sept
Football Opening
Victoria Park

Friday 03rd October
Netball Opening
Arnos Vale
9:30 am

Tyrone 'Tweety' Spence Shield Cup
St. Martins vs JP Eustace
2:10 pm

Sylvester 'Seoby' Taylor Shield Cup
Central Leeward vs
Bethel High
4:00 pm

Registration Deadline : Fri 12th Sept, 2014



Meet the Team

S.V. G Education Media Unit



Marla Nanton
The Voice of the Unit



C. RoseMarie Lewis
The Face behind the Designs



Shaun Millington
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